

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

March 30, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on March 23, 2005, ARCHIE DUNKLIN, JR., age 57, of Du Quoin, Illinois, and JOHN L. TOLLIVER, age 37, of Du Quoin, were convicted following a jury trial in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. Both DUNKLIN and TOLLIVER were convicted of one count of conspiracy to distribute more than fifty (50) grams of crack cocaine. The conspiracy began in 2002 and continued through March 4, 2004, in Du Quoin, Illinois and in St. Louis, Missouri.

Both DUNKLIN and TOLLIVER face a statutory minimum penalty of twenty years in prison and a maximum penalty of life imprisonment, a fine of up to \$4,000,000, and a term of at least five years of supervised release.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Perry County Drug Task Force pursuant to their participation in the Perry County Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses in the system that will get them the most time.

In addition, the Perry County States Attorney's Office has assisted throughout the investigation and has prosecuted a number of individuals in related cases in Perry County Circuit Court.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.